

ARKANSAS BLACK ON BLACK CRIME COALITION

Mrs. LINCOLN. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of Arkansans who are demonstrating true leadership and commitment in facing down one of the gravest problems facing African-American communities today—black on black crime.

Many people are unaware of the extent of black on black crime. Consider: African-Americans constitute 12 percent of the U.S. population. But in 2002, 45 percent of all murder victims nationwide were black. Of those murders, fully 91 percent were incidents of black on black crime. For young black men, homicide is the leading cause of death; for young black women, the second leading cause of death.

It's clear that we need to address this epidemic. The good news is that, in Arkansas, we're trying to do just that. Last year, a group of community leaders, business leaders, government officials, and religious leaders banded together to form the "Black On Black Crime Coalition," dedicated to raising public awareness of this important issue and developing solutions to mitigate this epidemic of crime and violence that is destroying lives, families, and communities every day. The coalition is just over one year old, and I'm proud to say that they are making great progress in developing new solutions, programs and plans to reduce the incidence of violent crime in the black community. These range from community workshops to neighborhood associations, from youth programs to public awareness campaigns.

The coalition is working with government leaders and law enforcement officials to develop fresh, innovative solutions to the problem of black on black crime. I've worked with the coalition as a partner, and I've been impressed with the energy, seriousness, and dedication that members of the coalition display. Given the commitment I've seen so far, I'm confident that we will see outstanding results from this vital organization. Even if we can't completely eliminate black on black crime, we can significantly reduce their frequency. That will be good news for all of our communities.

We recently observed "Black On Black Crime Prevention Month" to mark the coalition's founding in Arkansas and to continue raising public awareness about this epidemic of violent crime. I thank them for their commitment, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing their leadership. It's been a great year, and I look forward to working with the Black On Black Crime Coalition for many years to come.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK— MARCH 1-7, 2004

Mr. COLEMAN. Madam President, this week is National Peace Corps Week. It is with great pleasure that I

send my congratulations to the Peace Corps volunteers serving throughout the world as we celebrate the Peace Corps' 43 years of service.

Forty-three years ago, President John F. Kennedy mobilized a generation to work in emerging nations around the world in education, community development, agriculture, health care, and public works.

Since 1961, over 170,000 Americans have volunteered their expertise, time, and energy to foster development and progress in 136 countries. There is no greater symbol of America's generosity than American volunteers living and working in partnership with the people of developing nations to encourage education and opportunity.

Currently, over 7,500 volunteers are serving in 71 countries around the world—the highest number of volunteers in the field in 28 years—and applications have risen by 10 percent. Last year, Peace Corps entered or re-entered Albania, Azerbaijan, Chad, and Fiji, and many other countries have expressed interest in establishing a partnership with Peace Corps. I strongly support Peace Corps entry into Mexico for the first time.

It is my deepest hope that we continue to recognize and support the Peace Corps' important work. By honoring the Peace Corps, we reaffirm our Nation's commitment to strengthen freedom and create opportunities around the world.

President Bush has announced a goal of doubling the number of Peace Corps volunteers over 5 years. I support this effort and the President's budget request for the Peace Corps. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, and Narcotics Affairs, it is my objective to help the Peace Corps become not only bigger, but also better and safer. The well-being of the volunteer must remain the top priority of the Corps. I believe the Peace Corps must have the resources it needs to ensure volunteer safety. I also believe the Peace Corps should continue efforts to diversify its volunteers. We need to bring into the Corps more older volunteers, and more minorities. Only then can be the Peace Corps truly represent the face of America's melting pot.

The Peace Corps is part of Minnesota's heritage—over 5,000 Minnesotans have served as volunteers. And while the Peace Corps has been rightly associated with John F. Kennedy, it was Minnesota Senator Hubert Humphrey who proposed the idea in the 1950s.

I am very happy to join with Peace Corps volunteers, past and present, to celebrate National Peace Corps Week—March 1-7, 2004.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN HENRY "HANK" W. PUTEK, SR., USNR

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, today at Arlington National Cemetery we laid to rest a great patriot to whom

I am proud to pay tribute. Captain Henry "Hank" W. Putek, Sr., USN, was a naval aviator whose lifelong love of flying led to a 27 year Navy career that spanned the cold war and included service in Korea and Vietnam. It is my solemn honor today to recall his selfless commitment to this great Nation.

A pilot from the age of 14, Captain Putek obtained a commission in the U.S. Navy in 1953 through the Naval Aviation Cadet program. His distinguished career in naval aviation began with flight training in Pensacola, FL where he earned the coveted "wings of gold" of a naval aviator. He went on to fly combat jets in Korea and Vietnam, including the F-9 Fury, Douglas Skyraider, and F-4 Phantom. He served in numerous aircraft carriers with such storied names as *Lexington*, *Wasp*, *Yorktown*, *Hornet*, and *Saratoga*. In the race for space, Captain Putek was a project engineer for various research and development efforts and piloted tracking aircraft during the Gemini program. Captain Putek was a Navy test pilot who accumulated an astonishing 7,600 hours in 22 types of military aircraft throughout his career.

In 1977, Captain Putek retired from the United States Navy but continued to pursue his love for aviation as a training director with Piper Aircraft Corporation. He qualified in 22 Piper models and types. He was well known in his hometown as the owner of a bright orange "Davis" single engine aircraft, his pride and joy, which he built by hand.

Captain Putek is survived by his wife of 47 years, Mary Louis Putek, his sons, Hank and Jon, his daughters, Gwen and Janet, his sister, Dolores, and his brother, James. He was a loving husband and father, a passionate aviator, and a true gentleman.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MARCH ON FRANKFORT, KY

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Rev. Thurmond Coleman and 200 others who participated in the commemorative 1964 march to the Kentucky State Capital in Frankfort, KY.

Forty years ago, Reverend Coleman drove from Louisville to Frankfort with his five children to join the 1964 civil rights march of 10,000 people led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the great baseball star, Jackie Robinson. That march helped push Kentucky to become the first southern State to pass civil rights legislation.

The march and ceremony marked those early efforts and celebrated how far Kentucky has come in the last 40 years. Coleman was among those present yesterday who participated in the commemorative 1964 march and recalled the advances that were made in ensuing years. He is also a member of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, and has been an advocate for Kentucky's civil rights for many years.